

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 4, 2005 has been carefully reviewed. Claims 21, 23-29, 31-39, and 41-47 are pending in this patent application. By this amendment, claims 21, 23-25, 34, 39, 42, and 44-45 have been canceled, claims 35-38, 41, 43 and 46-47 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 26-29 and 31-33 were allowed.

Claims 41, 46, and 47 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Such rewriting has been done in accord with the Examiner's suggestion. Thus, claims 41, 46, and 47 are believed to be in proper form for allowance.

Claim Objection

Claim 41 has been further amended to correct the minor typographical error pointed out by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 21, 23-25, 34-39, and 42-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by LaSalle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,976,147). Claims 21, 23-25, 34, 39, 42, and 44-45 have been canceled. Claims 35-38 have each been

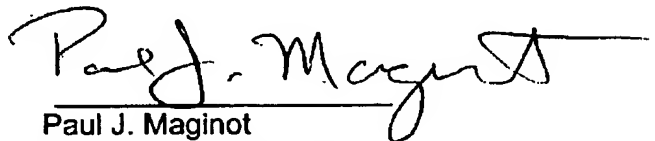
amended to depend from allowable claim 47, and claim 43 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 41. Thus, claims 35-38 and 47 are believed to be in proper form for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Action to that end is hereby solicited. Also, please provide any extensions of time that may be necessary and charge any fees that may be due to Account No. 13-0014, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

Respectfully submitted,

MAGINOT, MOORE & BECK



Paul J. Maginot
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 34,984

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Maginot, Moore & Beck
Bank One Center/Tower
111 Monument Circle, Suite 3000
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-5115
Phone: (317) 638-2922
Fax: (317) 638-2139